line from Jogigopa to Barak Valley in Assam upto Tripura, Manipur and Mizoram by a new alignment along the southern part of Meghalaya have been received;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to take any action on these representations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) Some representations have been received from Members of Parliament and State Government for construction of a new BG line from Jogigopa to Silchar.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A survey for a new BG line from Jogigopa Bridge to Silchar (approximately 200 kms.) has been included in the Rilway Budget for 1994-95.

Modernisation of Railway Telecom Network

5778. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Railways have decided to modernise its telecom network along the electrified routes;

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposed modernisation; and

(c) by when entire work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Indian Railways are modernising its telecom. network along the electrified routes. Overhead telecom. circuits are transferred on to the more reliable underground cable system. This also enables provision of additional telecom. circuits. Railway Electrification is a continuous process and the present work load is likely to be completed by March, 98, subject to availability of resources.

Interaction for better railway services

5779. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chairman, Railway Board has urged for better interaction between the road and railway transporters to provide better and more efficient services to the people:

(b) if so, whether a seminar on management and policy studies was held at New Delhi to discuss various improvements in rail services:

(c) if so, the details of the discussions held in the seminar; and

(d) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) An International seminar was organised under the aegis of International Union of Railways at New Delhi in Jan. '94. The main theme was "Importance of the Railways in the National Economy" During this Seminar , Chairman, Railway Board in his keynote address called for better interaction between Road and Rail transport to improve efficiency, customer service and optimise asset utilisation as some of the strategies.

(c) Discussions at this International Seminar focussed on the importance of Railwsys in the economy of nations. Various strategies for imporving the performance of the Railways were discussed. Cooperation